

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

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May 2008

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First, if you have not paid your dues for 2008, you will find a reminder in with this issue of the newsletter. If you find a reminder, please send you dues to Bob King right away so that you may receive CARTSNEWS without interruption.

Second, finalize your plans now to attend the CARTS meeting on May 10 in Fort Mill, SC. You will truly see more Carolina tokens at this meeting than you will find anywhere else.

Our meeting will be at the Comfort Inn Carowinds located at 3725 Avenue of the Carolinas. And, for the first time, our meeting room will not be on the ground floor. We will be meeting in room 422. But not to worry, the room is a spacious meeting room and appropriate for our use. You may however have to ask at the registration desk for directions to the elevator, as it is not immediately obvious. See the map under the president's report to locate the hotel.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

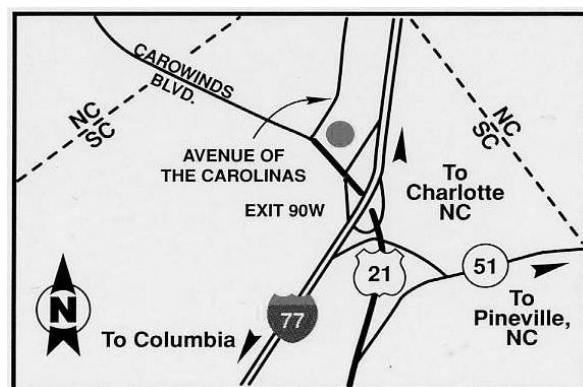
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, another three months have breezed by and it's time for a new installment of CARTSNEWS. As we move along into our fifth year as an organization I am pleased that we are still a viable entity. But we can always use new members and more participation from our existing members. If you know someone who collects tokens, please mention our organization to him or her. If you have a few spare minutes one day, please pen an article for the newsletter. It is such a large part of the organization and we need to have as many people as possible contributing to it. It doesn't take a lengthy article to make a contribution. Any size will do. Even just a picture and a couple of sentences would be appreciated....

Our May meeting is just around the corner. It is planned for May 10th on the South Carolina / North Carolina border near Charlotte. The meeting will convene between 8 and 9AM and will last until lunchtime. The location is the Comfort Inn in Fort Mill, SC which is located at exit 90 of Interstate 77 just south of Charlotte. This is the Carowinds Boulevard exit. See below for a map to the hotel. I hope to see everyone there!!!

Regards,

Tony Chibbaro, CARTS President



WANTED

ANYTHING TO DO WITH L. BOCHE, GEO. KUEHL, GEO. KUEHL & SON, GEO. KUEHL & BRO.

Also any information, rubbings, scans, photos, etc. of above. Also want all transportation, carwash, parking tokens.

John Kent, 6545 Northwind Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918
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tokent7@hotmail.com.

New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

There's not too much to report in the way of new finds in the past three months. The only two tokens that are of any note at all are from companies for which tokens have been reported in the past. The first hails from the Spartanburg County town of Arlington, which has since been renamed Apalache, for the textile mill which had long operated in the town.



30mm aluminum token from Mutual Mercantile Co.

The Mutual Mercantile Company operated in Arlington from 1908 to 1915. It may have been

the company store for Apalache Mills but this has not been corroborated. A five cents token from this company was listed in *South Carolina Tokens*, of which only one is known. The pictured 50 cents specimen is the only other token known from this firm at the present time. It was struck from dies rendered in a completely different style from the reported 5 cents token. The existence of a 50 cents token suggests the use of a full range of denominations at this store, so there is the likelihood of other tokens turning up in the future.

The next new find is also from a town that has been renamed. The city of Greer used to be known as Greers, and before that Greers Depot.



24mm uniface brass token from Greers Manufacturing Co.

The above token seems to resemble the average trade token from looking at the obverse. It strays slightly from the normal however, when the reverse is examined (it is blank). But it is probably not a true trade token in the usual sense. More likely, it is a production token used inside the mill in one of the plant's production rooms. It is only recognized as such, however, when viewed in light of a similar token cataloged as 1805-A in *South Carolina Tokens*. That token is identical to the one pictured above except for a large numeral "6" in place of the "10". Both tokens were probably production tokens given out to employees after completing a specified task. The daily pay of the employee was calculated by how many tokens were turned in to the supervisor at the end of the work shift. A company store would have no need for a token denominated with a "6" and due to the similar nature of the token pictured above, it, too, is likely a production token even though it carries a "10" on it.

RESULTS OF A CARTS MEETING: DISCOVERING THE “TOWER MILLS” TOKEN

Lamar Bland

Because I'm employed in Alamance County, I know of its rich textile history extending back to the Civil War. Scores of mills have flourished and vanished here in the last hundred and fifty years. Because tokens were frequently used in mills in the south, I have been surprised that I've never seen one from this county. That changed when I attended the CARTS meeting in Greenville, S.C. last fall. There I purchased the token pictured below from Tower Hosiery Mills of Burlington.



Tower Hosiery Mills / (cut out T) / Burlington, N.C. //
(Same) – R, Br, 21mm.

I subsequently discovered that Tower was founded by Reid Maynard, the father of Jim Maynard, who is a benefactor of Elon University where I teach. I phoned Jim, and he came to my office for conversation.

I learned that Tower Mills was founded in 1929, and operated by the Maynard family until 2004. At the height of its operation, it employed around 500 workers, who ran 3 shifts of labor 6 days a week, producing apparel knitting. Jim was

involved in all but the first 10 to 15 years of the mill's operation - first as the man who collected rent from employees living in the mill village, then eventually as company president. He said he had never seen a Tower Mills token, which likely means that my token was issued in the 1930's or early 1940's. There were other Maynard mills - Grace Hosiery, and Leith, McCarthy and Maynard - but they never issued tokens, Jim said.

Jim felt that the Tower token would not have been used by the company:

1. For transportation
2. In a company store (there wasn't one)
3. In their dining area
4. As a substitute for cash.

He thought it could possibly have been either a pilot token from a company seeking minting business, or a keepsake given to employees.

My conclusions? I agree that it probably was not used for transportation - in spite of the fact that it resembles a transportation token with its "T" cut-out in the center. The "T" most likely stands for "Tower" - the name given the mill because of a pre-existing water tower on location. I DON'T AGREE WITH JIM THAT IT WAS A SALESMAN'S MODEL, BECAUSE I SAW A DUPLICATE AT THE GREENVILLE MEETING. It seems likely to me, therefore, that the token was used in their dining commissary. It must have been minted in limited quantity because of the smaller size of Tower's operation before Jim's involvement, and because Jim doesn't remember ever seeing one.

My results from attending the CARTS meeting?

- I initiated research which led to my meeting the benefactor whose former residence now houses our university president.
- In that person, I have a contact for further inquiry into the mill history of Alamance County.
- I now own a scarce North Carolina mill token.
- And once again I shared the expertise and friendship of a small group of fellow collectors.

MEMBERS LISTING INTERESTS

Don Bailey
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eladon@brinet.com

Interests: North Carolina tokens; San Antonio tokens; peanut tokens; school, college and university tokens. North Carolina exonomia.

Lamar Bland
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Interests: Tokens with the name "Bland". North Carolina: Statewide, cotton mill tokens, tokens from Rutherford County and adjoining McDowell and Cleveland counties, tokens from businesses in Alamance and Wilkes counties. Worldwide: Metal coffee tokens from growers, coffee houses or marketers.

Tony Chibbaro
PO Box 420
Prosperity, SC 29127
830-532-0130
830-364-2726
Chibbaro@mindspring.com

Cataloger and Collector of South Carolina Trade Tokens.

Interests: All types of South Carolina exonomia; "odd" tokens; "odd" denominations, shapes, etc.; military tokens.

Joseph H. Elrod
5433 US Hwy 211
Sparta, NC 28675

Interests: South Dakota tokens and exonomia; exonomia related to fish, fishing, fisheries, etc.

Mike Greenspan
18611 Resica Falls Lane
Houston, TX 77094-2608
(281) 646-1116

Interests: Druggists, drug stores, pharmacy, apothecary, soda, fountain, and related tokens from all states (especially east coast) and all periods. Also interested in early copper.

Harry L. Hoots, Jr.
861 Tracy Grove Rd.
Flat Rock, NC 28731

Interests: All types of exonomia; Henderson County collectibles; US coins, currency and tokens.

Bob King
709 Cardinal Drive
Brevard, NC 28612
tokenaddict@citcom.net

Cataloger and Collector of North Carolina Trade Tokens.

Interests: North Carolina tokens, southern states tokens, North Carolina research materials.

Sleuthing the Tokens of the Vosburg Company

Tony Chibbaro

I first encountered the existence of a token from the Vosburg Company of Cashs Depot, S.C. in late 1985 while doing research for my book on South Carolina tokens. I came across the illustration of a 10 cents specimen in the April 1981 issue of the CAR-TAMS Quarterly, the official publication of the now-defunct Carolina Token and Medal Society (not to be confused with CARTS – our alive and well Carolina Token Society). A quick check of the mercantile directories revealed that the company was a lumber manufacturer that operated between 1913 and 1916. The token I had come across was the "discovery piece" as no other specimens were known to exist prior to its publication in the aforementioned quarterly newsletter. The pictured token was bimetallic and measured 24mm in diameter and had the following line description: THE VOSBURG CO. / (counterstamped "S") / CASHS DEPOT, S.C. // GOOD FOR / 10 / IN MERCHANDISE. (Note the presence of the letter "S" which was counterstamped in the middle of the obverse. Its presence will be elucidated upon later.)



Illustration of Vosburg Co. token from April 1981 issue of *CAR-TAMS Quarterly*

It was just a few months later in April of 1986 when I was able to procure a similar specimen from Alan Weinberg of California. This example was also a 10 cents piece and was similarly counterstamped with the letter "S" on the obverse. This token was well-worn, had a good bit of corrosion, and was just barely in collectible condition, but the price tag was reasonable. It would do until I came across a better example. Alan also mentioned that the token he had purchased was one of several identical pieces that

he had encountered at a token show out West. This comment sounded strange to me but I didn't think a whole lot about it at the time.

For the next several years I would occasionally run across other 10 cents specimens, all in like condition to the one I had purchased from Alan - worn and corroded, but still readable. I surmised that they had all come from the source of whom Alan had spoken. I also wondered if there had been any inscription on the central portion of the tokens, which, in the tokens' worn state, had seemed a likely place for additional wording.

Somewhere along the way I did come upon a fellow collector, the name of whom I do not recall now, who mentioned to me that the tokens I had been encountering had all come from some lumber camp in one of the far Western states. At first thought, this seemed really strange - how would a group of lumber tokens from the Eastern seaboard end up clear across the country. But after thinking about it for a while, I came up with several reasons. The most likely reason revolved around the fact that lumber company owners often purchased tracts of standing timber in various areas of the country and then sent their crews to harvest it until it was all cut down. The lumbermen would be in the area for a few years and then were moved on to the next tract of timber, which was usually in the next county or a neighboring state but could conceivably be on the other side of the country.



32mm bimetallic token obtained September 1999

The next new development concerning the Vosburg Company occurred in September of 1999. At the ATCO show in Omaha that year I was able to obtain a 50 cents specimen courtesy of Jim Cooke via Joe Copeland. The token was undoubtedly from the same set as the 10 cents

specimens that I had been seeing, but there were some notable differences. One was the condition - the new denomination was in very nice condition and I could easily read the entire inscription. Sure enough there was wording on the central portion of the token which could not be read on the worn pieces I had encountered so far. The obverse sported the word "INCORPORATED" arranged in a semicircle and the reverse exhibited "PAT APPLD FOR" in two lines under the denomination. Also, there was a complete lack of the counterstamped "S" on the obverse. I was happy to add this undamaged 50 cents token to my collection, but now there was a deepening mystery as to who had placed the obverse counterstamps and why.

A few months later in 1999 I obtained an undamaged and uncounterstamped 10 cents specimen. This one also exhibited the same differences from the initial 10 cents specimen in my collection. The word "INCORPORATED" appeared on the obverse, as well as "PAT APPLD FOR" on the reverse. Careful comparison of the two 10 cents pieces in my collection revealed that they were from the same pair of dies but the wear and corrosion on the first piece had obliterated the wording.



27.5mm bimetallic token obtained April 2008

In 2006 I was able to obtain a damaged 5 cents piece from the Vosburg Company. It had been a bimetallic token at one time but its aluminum center was not just damaged, it was completely missing. The missing aluminum center probably has the same wording as the other tokens. This one came from an eBay seller based on the East coast. And just this last month, another eBay seller on the Eastern Seaboard offered a 25 cents piece. I was fortunate enough to be the high bidder and

have recently added it to my collection. This token also exhibits the same inscriptions as the other tokens.

And now we give a little history on the Vosburg Company. The mercantile directories list the company only in four issues - 1913 through 1916. The company operated a general store and manufactured lumber at a sawmill in the town of Cashes Depot in Chesterfield County (the town has since been renamed Cash). The company headquarters were located in DuBois, Pennsylvania. The fine book entitled *Logging Railroads of South Carolina* by Thomas Feters mentions that the company operated in the area as early as 1910 and had purchased equipment previously owned by The N.L. Hoover Lumber Company of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, who had also operated a sawmill in Cashes Depot. There was also a fine photograph of one of the company's locomotives complete with log loader and rail cars loaded with cut trees. (See below.) This was all the information that I could locate on the company in my usual sources.



Shay locomotive, Barnhart log loader, and loaded rail cars operated by the Vosburg Company

In doing online research on the company for this article I came across the following information on the tokencatalog.com website hosted by Richard Greever. A specimen of the 10 cents Vosburg Co. token is pictured along with the following: "Attributed to A. Sohler of Wheeler, Oregon by Ed Saunders. Notes from the holder - Used by A. Sohler - c/s "S"." If this information is correct, and I have no reason to doubt its veracity, then perhaps it is an answer to who counterstamped the tokens, but not to why they were counterstamped or to how they ended up in Oregon in the first place. One could make the argument that they were

utilized by Mr. Sohler in his business somehow, but why not have tokens made up with his own name?

After finding the above information and remembering that I had been told that the tokens had been found in a lumber camp, I decided to see if perhaps Mr. Sohler was in the lumber business. I checked the Oregon token book and found tokens issued by A. Sohler in Wheeler, Oregon with his own name and location on them, but no mention of him being in the lumber business or any Vosburg Company tokens in relation to him. I then checked the lumber token catalog and, this time, did find pertinent information. Under the listing for the Wheeler Lumber Co. of Wheeler, Oregon was information that explained the presence of the tokens in Oregon. Apparently this company was

owned or operated by Arthur W. Vosburg, in association with John E. DuBois of DuBois, Pennsylvania. There was also a sentence explaining that a hoard of the Cashes Depot, S.C. tokens was found near Wheeler and were presumably used in Wheeler as well as in South Carolina.

I think that pretty much wraps up the mystery of how these tokens wound up on the West Coast, but the meaning of the "S" counterstamp is not so apparent. The attribution to A. Sohler could be correct or could be just conjecture. And, barring any new information, I guess that it will remain that way indefinitely.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

CLIFTON MANUFACTURING CO, CLIFTON AND CONVERSE, SC. 5 piece set of paper scrip 1, 2, 5, 10 and 25 cents. A hard to find item that would make a nice addition to any collection. \$10.00 and Small SASE. E-mail for scans. Steven Kawalec P.O. Box 4281 Clifton, NJ 07012 owlprowler@aol.com

THE FAMOUS TEXAS TOKEN SUPPLEMENTS - TAMS JOURNAL(s) April 1973 (Part II), February 1979 (Part II), April 1984 (Part II). All three postpaid and insured \$100. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729.

TRADE

Will trade for comparable scarce NC token: **HOPEDALE STORE/GOOD FOR 5 CENTS IN TRADE** (VF and scarce) Hopedale is a small mill community near Burlington, N.C. with the referenced general store still standing. blandl@elon.edu

WANTED

STILL SEARCHING FOR A TOKEN FROM PACOLET MANUFACTURING COMPANY OR CLIFTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY. Surely they all didn't get washed away in the great flood of 1903. Also looking for all other scarce and rare South Carolina Tokens. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 home phone: 803-252-1881 chibbaro@mindspring.com.

FLORIDA TOKENS WANTED for personal collection, one or whole collection. Give me a try. steve@ratliff.com. Steve Ratliff, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, FL 32583.

ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW FIND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLASSIFIED AND/OR PAID ADS. Only you can make your club better. Send them in to your editor!

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.